WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Health Tourism Destination

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's private hospitals are all set to give the historical sites in the country tough competition, with the Government ready to lure foreigners to get an altogether different kind of tourism;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has finally decided to launch India as a health tourism destination;

(c) if so, what are the main points of the scheme;

(d) to what extent this scheme has been made applicable to all the tourist spots in the country; and

(e) to what extent it has been welcomed by the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Tourism have formed a Task Force, headed by Secretary (Health) and senior officials of the Ministries concerned and experts in the medical field, with a view to promoting India as a Health Destination overseas and to gainfully utilize the health care expertise and infrastructure available in the country as well as to popularise the wellness systems prevalent in India. It has also been decided to promote and market India as a Healthcare destination through collaterals/print/electronic and internet media under the Ministry of Tourism's "Incredible India Campaign".

Indian Healthcare Federation, a Non Governmental Organisation affiliated to the Confederation of Indian Industry, has prepared a guide on select Indian cities and corresponding hospitals, and a guide on suggested uniform price band for different speciality services for Indian hospitals for promoting-Health Tourism. In view of popular demand, a new cetegory of visa "Medical Visa" has been introduced by Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign tourists coming to India for medical treatment.